

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1-12. (Canceled).

13. (Currently Amended) The imaging sensor according to claim ~~[[12]]~~ 17, wherein the evaluation unit derives from the at least one image signal at least one value and compares the at least one value with at least one limit value to monitor the imaging sensor's operability.

14. (Previously Presented) The imaging sensor according to claim 13, further comprising:

an interface, wherein an indication of the operability is transferred via the interface.

15. (Currently Amended) The imaging sensor according to claim 13, wherein the at least one image signal is generated based on at least one invariant pattern.

16. (Currently Amended) The imaging sensor according to claim 13, wherein the operability is determined based on a profile of the at least one image signal.

17. (Currently Amended) An ~~[[The]]~~ imaging sensor ~~according to claim 12~~ disposed in a vehicle, comprising:

an image acquisition unit for generating at least one image signal; and

an evaluation unit configured to monitor the imaging sensor's operability based on the image signal;

wherein the image acquisition unit includes a first image-producing sensor and a second image-producing sensor, and wherein the at least one image signal includes a first image signal provided by the first image-producing sensor and a second image signal provided by the second image-producing sensor, and wherein the operability is determined based on a comparison of the first image signal with the second image signal.

18. (Previously Presented) The imaging sensor according to claim 13, wherein the operability is monitored during an initialization phase.

19. (Previously Presented) The imaging sensor according to claim 13, wherein the imaging sensor is connectable to a diagnostic unit that activates the evaluation unit to monitor the operability.

20. (Previously Presented) The imaging sensor according to claim 13, wherein the evaluation unit is manually activatable to monitor the operability.

21. (Previously Presented) The imaging sensor according to claim 13, wherein the imaging sensor is configured to produce an image having depth resolution.

22. (Currently Amended) The imaging sensor according to claim ~~[[12]]~~ 17, further comprising:

an illumination device configured to provide a pattern, wherein the image acquisition unit generates the image signal based on the pattern.